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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) In a threaded information visualization system that provides a visualization of threaded information that includes plural threaded information entries, a graphical representation of the threaded information rendered on a display screen, comprising:

an indented threading arrangement of parallel, generally substantially one-dimensional entry lines that each represent one of the threaded information entries.

2. (original) The graphical representation of claim 1 in which the threaded information entries include plural fields of entry information and in which the entry lines are rendered with variations corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

3. (previously presented) The graphical representation of claim 2 in which individual entry lines are rendered with colors corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of the entry information for the individual threaded information entries.

4. (previously presented) The graphical representation of claim 3 in which each information entry has an originator and in which the one or more predefined fields of entry information relate to the originator of the information entry and the originator is indicated in the entry line for the information entry.

5. (original) The graphical representation of claim 4 in which plural information entries may share a common originator and in which the color of an entry line corresponds to the number of information entries provided by the originator of the entry line.

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6. (previously presented) The graphical representation of claim 3 in which each information entry has an associated time and in which the one or more predefined fields of entry information relate to the associated time of the information entry and the associated time is indicated by positioning of the entry line for the information entry.

7. (original) The graphical representation of claim 3 in which the entry lines are rendered with lengths corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

8. (original) The graphical representation of claim 7 in which the entry lines are rendered at positions corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

9. (original) The graphical representation of claim 2 in which the entry lines are rendered with lengths corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

10. (original) The graphical representation of claim 9 in which each information entry includes an amount of information and in which the one or more predefined fields of entry information relates to the amount of information in the information entry.

11. (original) The graphical representation of claim 9 in which the entry lines are rendered at positions corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

12. (original) The graphical representation of claim 2 in which the entry lines are rendered at positions corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

13. (previously presented) The graphical representation of claim 12 in which each information entry has an associated time and in which the one or more predefined field of entry information relate to the associated time of the information entry and the associated time is indicated by positioning of the entry line for the information entry.

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14. (original) The graphical representation of claim 1 in which the threaded information includes threads that begin with top-level information entries, the graphical representation further comprising text information only about top-level information entries.

15. (original) The graphical representation of claim 1 in which the entry lines are horizontal.

16. (original) The graphical representation of claim 1 in which the entry lines are arranged vertically.

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17. (original) The graphical representation of claim 1 in which the threaded information includes threads that begin with top-level information entries and in which the entry indicators representing the top-level information entries include spacing between them transverse to their one dimension.

18. (original) The graphical representation of claim 17 in which plural ones of the entry indicators are positioned together to represent a thread of threaded information and in which the entry indicators representing the thread include no spacing between them transverse to their one dimension.

19. (original) The graphical representation of claim 1 in which plural ones of the entry indicators are positioned together to represent a thread of threaded information and in which the entry indicators representing the thread include no spacing between them transverse to their one dimension.

20. (original) The graphical representation of claim 1 in which the entry lines associated with the information entries of a user-selected thread are replaced with enlarged entry bars.

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21. (original) The graphical representation of claim 20 in which the threaded information includes threads that begin with top-level information entries and in which the visualization further comprises text information only about a top-level information entry of the selected thread.

22. (original) The graphical representation of claim 20 in which user-selected enlarged entry bars are distinguished from other enlarged entry bars.

23. (currently amended) ~~In threaded information visualization software that is on a~~ At least one computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon, which when executed by at least one processing system, cause the processing system to implement threaded information visualization software providing and provides a visualization of threaded information that includes plural threaded information entries, the improvement at least one medium comprising:

rendering engine instructions for rendering a threaded information visualization as an indented threading arrangement of ~~generally~~ substantially one-dimensional entry lines that each represent one of the threaded information entries.

24. (currently amended) The ~~software~~ medium of claim 23 further comprising user interface ~~controls~~ control instructions for allowing a user to select from among plural visualization formats that each include an indented threading arrangement of parallel, ~~generally~~ substantially one-dimensional entry lines.

25. (currently amended) The ~~software~~ medium of claim 23 in which the threaded information entries include plural fields of entry information and in which individual entry lines are rendered with variations corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of the entry information for the individual threaded information entries.

26. (currently amended) The ~~software~~ medium of claim 25 in which the entry lines are rendered with colors corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

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27. (currently amended) The ~~software~~ medium of claim 26 in which each information entry has an originator and in which the one or more predefined fields of entry information relate to the originator of the information entry and the originator is indicated in the entry line for the information entry.

28. (currently amended) The ~~software~~ medium of claim 27 in which plural information entries may share a common originator and in which the color of an entry line corresponds to the number of information entries provided by the originator of the entry line.

29. (currently amended) The ~~software~~ medium of claim 25 in which each information entry has an associated time and in which the one or more predefined fields of entry information relate to the associated time of the information entry and the associated time is indicated by positioning of the entry line for the information entry.

30. (currently amended) The ~~software~~ medium of claim 25 in which the entry lines are rendered with lengths corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

31. (currently amended) The ~~software~~ medium of claim 30 in which the entry lines are rendered at positions corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

32. (currently amended) The ~~software~~ medium of claim 25 in which the entry lines are rendered with lengths corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

33. (currently amended) The ~~software~~ medium of claim 32 in which each information entry includes an amount of information and in which the one or more predefined fields of entry information relate to the amount of information in the information entry.

34. (currently amended) The ~~software~~ medium of claim 32 in which the entry lines are rendered at positions corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

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35. (currently amended) The ~~software~~ medium of claim 25 in which the entry lines are rendered at lateral positions corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

36. (currently amended) The ~~software~~ medium of claim 35 in which each information entry has an associated time and in which the one or more predefined fields of entry information relate to the associated time of the information entry and the associated time is indicated by positioning of the entry line for the information entry.

37. (currently amended) The ~~software~~ medium of claim 23 in which the entry lines are horizontal.

38. (currently amended) The ~~software~~ medium of claim 23 in which the entry lines are arranged vertically.

39. (currently amended) The ~~software~~ medium of claim 23 in which the threaded information includes threads that begin with top-level information entries, the visualization further comprising text information only about top-level information entries.

40. (currently amended) The ~~software~~ medium of claim 23 in which the entry lines associated with the information entries of a user-selected thread are replaced with enlarged entry bars.

41. (currently amended) The ~~software~~ medium of claim 40 in which the threaded information includes threads that begin with top-level information entries and in which the visualization further comprises text information only about a top-level information entry of the selected thread.

42. (currently amended) The ~~software~~ medium of claim 40 in which user-selected enlarged entry bars are distinguished from other enlarged entry bars.

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43. (new) A method for providing a threaded message representation, the method comprising:

associating at least one message with at least one identifier that does not use at least one character-based representation for describing the at least one message;
and

presenting the at least one message using the at least one associated identifier in a threaded message format.

44. (new) The method as set forth in claim 43, wherein associating the at least one message with at least one identifier that does not use at least one character-based representation for describing the at least one message further comprises:

selecting at least one identifier length in a direction along an axis in a display area where the at least one message is presented on for the at least one identifier based on at least one message characteristic.

45. (new) The method as set forth in claim 43, wherein associating the at least one message with at least one identifier that does not use at least one character-based representation for describing the at least one message further comprises:

selecting at least one graphical characteristic for the at least one identifier based on at least one message characteristic.

46. (new) The method as set forth in claim 43, wherein presenting the at least one message using the at least one associated identifier in a threaded message format further comprises:

positioning at least one presented message in at least one location along a first axis in a display area where the at least one positioned message is presented on based on at least one message characteristic.

47. (new) The method as set forth in claim 46 further comprising:

spacing the at least one positioned message away from a second axis that is perpendicular to the first axis in the display area by a spacing distance based on at least one other message characteristic.

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48. (new) The method as set forth in claim 43, wherein presenting the at least one message using the at least one associated identifier in a threaded message format further comprises:

spacing at least one presented message away from at least one other presented message by a minimal spacing distance that is based on a display area where the presented messages are presented on.

49. (new) The method as set forth in claim 43, wherein presenting the at least one message using the at least one associated identifier in a threaded message format further comprises:

arranging at least one presented message to be adjacent at least one other presented message without spacing the presented messages away from each other on a display area.

50. (new) A method for creating a threaded message representation, the method comprising:

identifying a relationship between at least two messages that are to be presented in the threaded message representation; and

presenting a non-textual identifier for at least one of the messages that conveys the relationship between the messages.

51. (new) The method as set forth in claim 50, further comprising:
selecting an identifier length in a direction along an axis in the threaded message representation for the non-textual identifier based on at least one message characteristic.

52. (new) The method as set forth in claim 50, further comprising:
selecting at least one graphical characteristic for the non-textual identifier based on at least one message characteristic.

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53. (new) The method as set forth in claim 50, wherein presenting a non-textual identifier for at least one of the messages that conveys the relationship between the messages further comprises:

positioning the non-textual identifier in a location along a first axis in the threaded message representation based on at least one message characteristic.

54. (new) The method as set forth in claim 50, wherein presenting a non-textual identifier for at least one of the messages that conveys the relationship between the messages further comprises:

spacing the non-textual identifier away from another non-textual identifier by a minimal spacing distance that is based on a display area where the threaded message representation is presented on.

55. (new) The method as set forth in claim 50, wherein presenting a non-textual identifier for at least one of the messages that conveys the relationship between the messages further comprises:

arranging the non-textual identifier to be adjacent to another non-textual identifier without spacing the non-textual identifiers away from each other in the threaded message representation.
